Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

Prepared by

Southern Interior Region

Kamloops, B.C.

BC Parks

91-00463/

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Main entry under title:
Okanagan Mountain Park master plan

Cover title: Master Plan for Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park

ISBN 0-7726-1150-5

1. Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park (B.C.) 2. Parks - British Columbia - Planning. 3. Parks - British Columbia - Management. I. British Columbia. Ministry of Parks. Southern Interior Region. II. Title: Master plan for Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park.

FC3815.032032 1990
333.78'3'097115
C90-092180-3
F1089.032032 1990

OKANAGAN MOUNTAIN

PROVINCIAL PARK

MASTER PLAN

MAY, 1990

Recommended: _____ Date: May 4, 1990

District Manager
Okanagan District

Approved: _____ Date: May-24-90.

Jake Masselink
Assistant Deputy
Minister

Table of Contents

Plan Highlights 7

Introduction 9

Purpose of the Plan
Background Summary 12

The Role of the Park..... 16

Regional and Provincial Significance
Conservation Role
Recreation Role 17

Park Zoning

Intensive Recreation Zone
Natural Environment Zone 18
Wilderness Recreation Zone

Natural and Cultural Resource Management

Lands
Water 22
Vegetation 23
Fish and Wildlife 24
Cultural Resources 25
Visual Resources

Visitor Services Management .. 26
Information Strategy
Visitor Opportunities 27
Product Line: Beach/Picnic/Water Play 28
Product Line: Backcountry 30
Product Line: Resource Appreciation 35
Management Services 36
Marketing 37

Plan Implementation 38

Public Input Summary 39

List of Figures

1. Location 13
2. Existing Development 15
3. Zoning 19
4. Private Holdings 21
5. Beach Development Potential 29
6. Facility Plan 33

Plan Highlights

Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park encompasses 10,542 hectares of natural lakeshore to mountaintops in the Okanagan, an intensively developed region. No other park in the Okanagan provides the upland wilderness for hiking, camping and fishing or the remote beaches.

To ensure these high-quality recreational opportunities remain and are enhanced, a number of specific actions are identified in this plan. The primary action is the acquisition of key inholdings which, if developed in future, could detract from the integrity of the park. There is also a strong emphasis placed on the combination of beach activities and backcountry use, whether on a day use or overnight basis. Another key element of the successful realization of the park's role in the region and within the provincial park system is the relationship of the park to a regional recreation corridor discussed for the east side of Okanagan Lake.

Major program directives outlined in the plan include:

1. Acquisition of private properties that are essential to the integrity of the park and its development as a recreational unit;
2. Development of effective access and parking relative to the land acquisition plans;
3. Implementation of a comprehensive sign and public information program to increase public awareness of the park and its recreational opportunities;
4. Appropriate development along beaches in the park and their connections to the backcountry according to their capacity and suitability;
5. Implementation of a comprehensive trail plan and the phased development and improvements of links in that system;
6. Implementation of site-specific forest-management actions to protect representative vegetation communities, reduce fire hazard and improve wildlife habitat and recreation potential;
7. Retention of a fire suppression approach that emphasizes quick initial attack; and,
8. Assembly of a comprehensive cultural history inventory of the area and interpretation of the significant elements of that history to the public.

The plan relies on a significant commitment of staff time and financial resources to achieve these ends but it is believed that the benefits warrant such a commitment.

Introduction

Purpose of the Plan

Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park is a beautiful and important area of the Okanagan Valley and a valuable asset to the Provincial Park System. Its significance results from two very important characteristics. In a valley so heavily modified for other land uses such as urban development, transportation, agriculture and forestry, this relatively large natural area extending from lakeshore to mountain top is a valuable remnant of the natural history of the valley. The expanse of natural terrain protected by the park provides recreational opportunities that are not found in other Okanagan Valley parks. In particular, recreational use of the remote beaches of the park is unique to Okanagan Mountain Park, as are the extensive upland-wilderness hiking, camping and fishing opportunities. Okanagan Mountain Park contributes significantly to the goals and objectives of the Provincial Park System by conserving this valuable representative landscape providing a diversity of compatible recreational opportunities.

It is important that the park be planned and managed to sustain and improve that contribution. The purpose of this plan is to assist in that process by providing long-term direction for the continued development and management of the park, both with respect to the protection of the natural resources of the area and the provision of recreational activities that will allow visitors to know and appreciate this special part of British Columbia.

The plan was prepared by PRP Parks: Research & Planning Inc. under contract to BC Parks Regional Office in Kamloops. The primary consultant on the project was Mr. Bruce Downie. Throughout the process of preparing the plan, information, ideas and comments were supplied by many people from within and beyond the Ministry . At the outset, a letter of invitation and a response form was sent to identified groups and individuals who have previously been involved in some way with the park (June, 1989). In addition, advertisements inviting public participation were placed in local newspapers. This generated considerable public response and resulted in important contributions to the plan. A summary of the public comments received is included at the end of this document. In the second stage of public involvement, open houses were held in the communities of Kelowna and Penticton (October, 1989) to review a draft master plan for the park. They were well attended and many comments and concerns were discussed with Ministry staff and the consultant during the course of the sessions. An additional period following the open houses allowed further opportunity for the public to develop written submissions. The public contributions have been most helpful in the development of the plan.

Two major sources of data have been used in the development of this plan.

- The Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park Master Plan Background Report prepared by Cal-Eco Consultants Ltd. was completed in March of 1989 and is a current reflection of the park's resources, developments, use and issues. Besides the wealth of background data, identification of management issues is of particular importance to the development of the master plan. The issues identified in the Background Report are summarized below and have been considered in the development of management strategies identified in the plan.

A. Forest Management

Fire hazard is a concern in the park due to the hot dry conditions that are experienced in the valley during the summer months. This concern is compounded by the approaching climax status of the forest cover and the spread of pine beetle attack. Both conditions result in the extensive accumulation of downed timber. With such high fuel loading, there is significant potential for fire to be devastating in the park. This also poses a hazard to the surrounding lands.

B. Wildlife Management

A variety of wildlife related issues emerged during the course of the Background Report preparation. Incidents of conflict between park wildlife and surrounding agricultural landowners were noted, as was the potential for conflict between park users and bears and rattlesnakes, especially if park use continues to increase. In addition, hunting, trapping and habitat enhancement were identified as subjects that require further data to establish management directions.

C. Land Planning

This issue was similarly expressed in a variety of ways in the Background Report. There was an identified need for clear management objectives which reflected the wilderness core of the park and the more intensively used fringe. Another concern was over private properties (especially those which are inholdings) and their impact on the operations and visitor experience of the park. Facility development and clean up of areas such as Rattlesnake Island were also noted as an important need. Finally, it was suggested that the confusion resulting from the variety of place names be addressed and that official names be related to the history of the park area.

D. Public Information and Marketing:

Information for the public about the park, its resources, location and conditions of use is a vital component of the visitor experience. Not only does the present level of public information limit the visitor use of the park but it also detracts from the visitor experience and appreciation of the park. While efforts in the District are being undertaken to address this problem, a comprehensive plan and concentrated effort is needed to fully address the inadequacies. Cooperation between government and volunteer groups such as the yacht clubs was encouraged.

- Ministry staff in the District and Regional offices were the second major source of information used as the basis for this plan. Initial discussions were held in the District office and Regional offices. These were followed by a field survey and discussions with park rangers to review park operations and issues. Their insights into the resources and visitor needs within the park were most helpful. A wide variety of concerns discussed with Ministry staff were referred to in the categorization outlined by the Background Report. Three major concerns are identified below. Their identification is not meant to suggest that other issues were not raised but rather to reflect the importance of these issues.

A. Park Role and Purpose

A clear statement of the role and purpose of the park forms the basis for virtually all related management decisions and actions. This is a crucial need for Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park and will establish a consistent and defensible management approach.

B. Private Property:

Private property entirely or partially enclosed by park lands raises a key issue for park managers, especially in regards to the implications for access and park use that result. Decisions with respect to land need to be clear and pursued with conviction for efficient development and management of park resources and the visitor experience.

C. Repeater Sites

The two repeater towers built on Okanagan Mountain before the park's establishment now represent a non-conforming use within the Park. Recent applications for additional towers raise the question of whether the communications site should expand to meet the priorities of the communications industry, or be limited or even reduced in scale to conform to the purposes and values of Class A Parks.

Discussions with Ministry staff also provided a different perspective on the issues as they were described in the Background Report. Generally, there was agreement on the issues, naturally modified by new information and differing opinions from various staff. However, there was some indication that some issues identified were of lesser significance than reflected by the Background Report. This was particularly true of the issues related to wildlife management, such as the impact of park animals on the surrounding agricultural land or the potential conflicts with visitors. Thus, while all the issues are touched on in some way with the directions outlined in the plan, it should be recognized that the issues are not of equal significance nor have they been identified or discussed in any particular hierarchial order.

Background Summary

Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park is a Class A Park encompassing 10,462 hectares of some of the last remaining undeveloped land in the Okanagan region. It is situated on the inside bend of Okanagan Lake, between the city of Penticton to the south and Kelowna to the north (see Figure #1). The primary attraction of the park is Okanagan Mountain (1,579 m) with its striking canyons and rugged outcrops.

The park area has long been a focus for human activity:

> "Indian pictographs have been found on rock outcrops and canyon walls; fur brigades, early missionaries and settlers traveled through on some of its myriad trails; cattle have been grazing on lands on its eastern boundary for many years and were driven from south to north along a major cattle trail; horse logging occurred up to the 1930's; transmission and relay towers have been placed on its summit; and, it has received regular recreational use by hikers, trail riders, naturalists, fishermen, hunters, trappers and four-wheel drive enthusiasts."
>
> (Cal-Eco Consultants, Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park Background Report, March 1989)

After considerable lobbying by local residents in Kelowna and Penticton, Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park was established in 1973.

Road access to the park is provided along the southern boundary (from Naramata) and along the northern boundary (from Kelowna). Although the northern park boundary is only thirty minutes from downtown Kelowna, the wilderness character of the park persists, partially due to the lack of a road network within the park itself. Pockets of private land, located within the park and concentrated along the shoreline, were in existence prior to park establishment. These parcels, along with the 32 km of lakeshore in the park, can also be accessed by boat.

Consistent with its wilderness atmosphere, facility development in the park is minimal. Two parking lots, a system of hiking trails, picnic areas and primitive campsites comprise the development within the park boundaries. Two old log cabins at the upland lakes (see Fig.#2) also predate establishment of the park.

The park is a representative example of the Okanagan Basin and Okanagan Highlands Regional Landscapes. A number of aspects of the park's natural history are noteworthy. The terrain ranges from the deeply incised meltwater channels of Goode Creek and Wild Horse Canyon to the 1,579-metre-high Okanagan Mountain. Given this elevation range, it is not surprising that the park encompasses ecosystems from three different biogeoclimatic zones: the bunchgrass zone in some of the lower but more exposed areas, the ponderosa pine zone in much of the lower elevations; and, the interior Douglas fir zone on the upper mountain reaches. Thus the park's plant life represents the influence of both the dry southern and wetter northern climates. Plants found in the Sonoran desert of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico have been recorded growing in the park, the most northerly limit of the species to date. In addition, the park contains a major British Columbia habitat for snakes, such as the Pacific rattlesnake, the western blue racer, and the gopher snake.

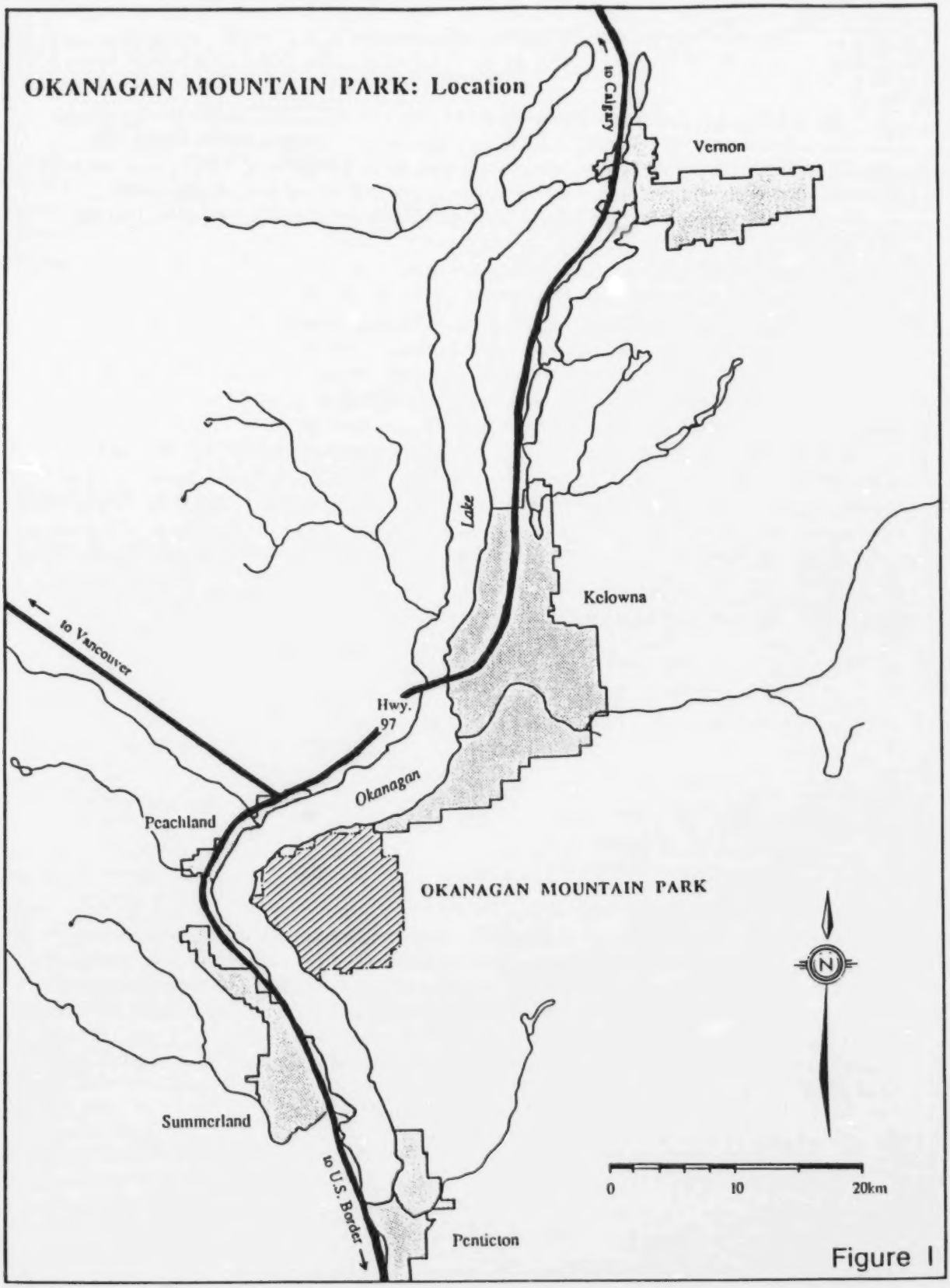
OKANAGAN MOUNTAIN PARK: Location
to Calgary
Vernon
Lake
Kelowna
to Vancouver
Hwy. 97
Okanagan
Peachland
OKANAGAN MOUNTAIN PARK
N
0
10
20km
Summerland
to U.S. Border
Penticton

Figure 1

Recreational use within the park is divided into two distinct areas: the foreshore and the upland. The foreshore primarily attracts boating parties which engage in boating, swimming, sunbathing, picnicking, and fishing activities. The upland area is generally accessed by parties using the south or north parking lots. These parties pursue recreational opportunities which include: lake fishing, hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, hunting and horseback riding.

Records of the level of use in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park are few, having only been collected over the last three years. In 1988, an estimated 1917 day use parties and 766 boating parties visited the park area. The distribution of this use over the summer period indicates a theoretical daily average of 28 day use parties per day using the park during June, 11 parties per day in July, and 25 parties per day during August. A similar distribution of boating use indicate five parties per day in June, 13 parties per day in July, andseven parties per day in August.

In 1989, day use parties were up significantly while boating parties remained almost constant, with a very slight increase being recorded. During the same summer period, estimated daily averages for day use were 47 parties per day in June, 60 parties per day in July, and 53 parties per day in August. Boating parties remained relatively level at five parties per day in June, 13 parties per day in July, and three parties per day in August.

Visitor Use Data

(visitors)

	1989		1988	
	Day Use	Boating	Day Use	Boating
June	1,415	161	291	163
July	1,849	414	969	415
August	1,656	103	807	141

Improvement in the data collection methods and expansion of the season over which the data has been collected naturally result in significantly increasing annual visitor numbers. However, present use levels are still low relative to the potential of the resource and in comparison with other parks in the region. Given the lack of promotion of the park to date, as well as the growth potential of both Kelowna and Penticton (particularly in response to the extension of the Coquihalla Highway), use of the park will likely increase steadily.

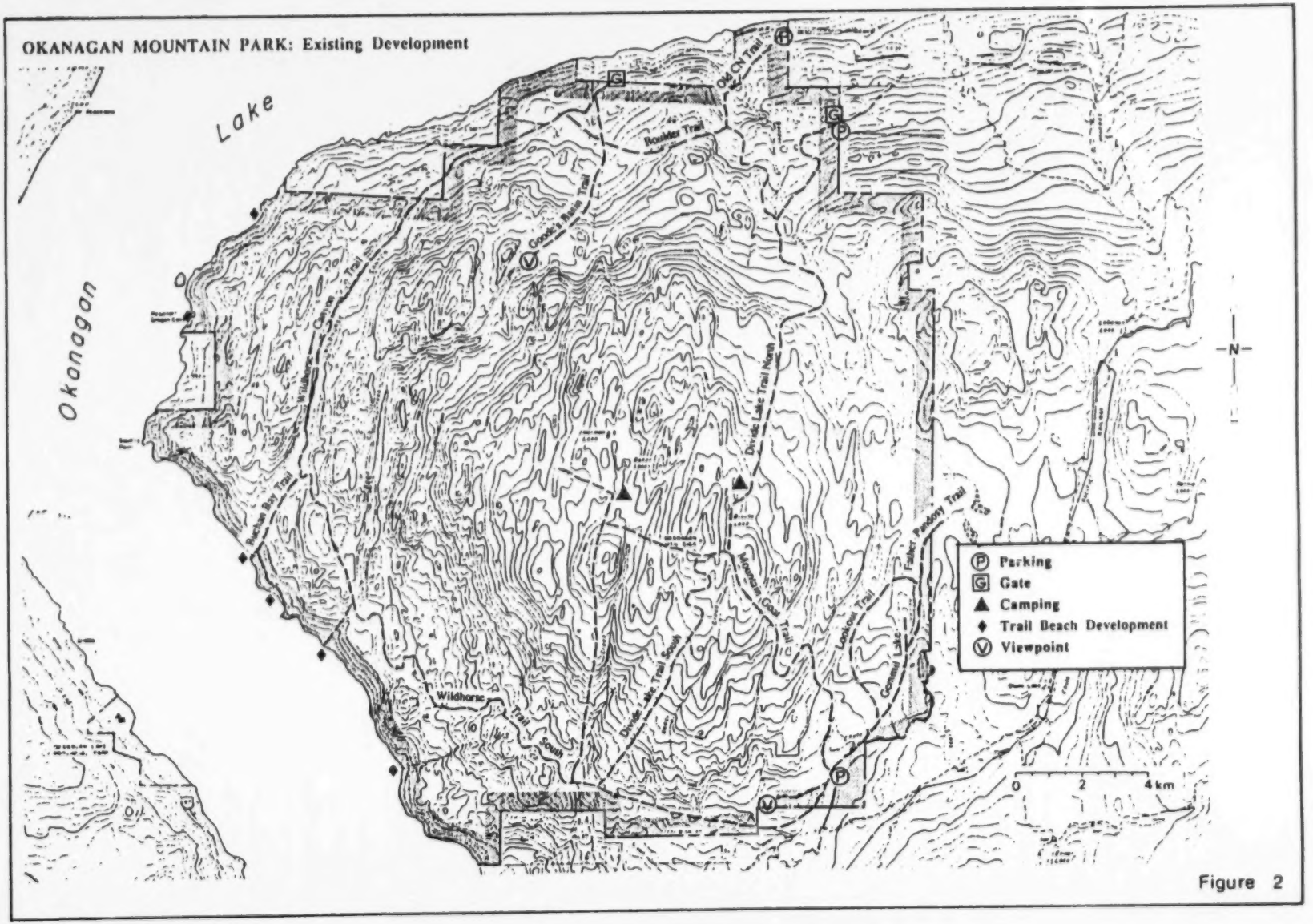
OKANAGAN MOUNTAIN PARK: Existing Development
Okanagan Lake
Old CN Trail
Rowles Trail
Goose's Bump
Wildhorse Trail
Pocket Bay Trail
Divide Lake Trail North
Divide Lake Trail South
Mountain Goat Trail
Lookout Trail
Fuller Pandory Trail
Council Lake
Wildhorse Trail South
N
Parking
Gate
Camping
Trail Beach Development
Viewpoint
0 2 4 km

Figure 2

The Role of the Park

Regional and Provincial Significance

The Okanagan Valley is a small but highly distinctive area in the context of British Columbia as a whole. At the same time, it is an important focus of human activity in agriculture, in tourism and as a desirable place to live. Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park is provincially significant, therefore, for its role of preserving the natural character of the valley. Because of heavy use pressures, little of the valley remains in its natural state. The park helps to maintain a diversity of high quality recreational opportunities in an area of heavy recreational-use pressure by an expanding resident population and large numbers of tourists, .

There has been little recognition of this significance. Okanagan Mountain Park has remained virtually unknown, even to many local residents. As a result, it has served a primarily local clientele although its potential is much greater. With more and more development occurring in the valley, the significance of the park environment will increase. A major contributing factor to this inevitable pressure is the development of Phase 3 of the Coquihalla Highway corridor which will put the Okanagan Valley virtually in the backyard of the entire population of the Lower Mainland. Improved highway systems along the valley itself will support higher volumes of visitors. At the same time, this will consume more prime land resources, thus increasing the need for recreational space.

Presently there are initiatives to develop a recreational corridor along the eastern side of Okanagan Lake. A significant aspect of that concept is the present lack of motorized access through the area. Compared with other segments of the route, from the northern portion of the Okanagan Valley right down into the United States, the area around Okanagan Mountain Park is a welcome backcountry retreat. The park could play a major role in the potential of the recreational corridor by acting as a focal point for a variety of recreational activities. In particular, it could provide a challenging and interesting backcountry biking experience as part of a long-distance route.

The high quality of the key recreational opportunities existing and proposed within the park, including boating, remote beach activities, hiking, camping, fishing, and bicycling, give the park significant recreational potential. Besides serving an active and large regional population, the park will increasingly draw visitors from other parts of British Columbia and Washington.

Conservation Role:

- To protect a representative sample of the the natural features and qualities of the Okanagan Basin and the Okanagan Highlands Regional Landscapes;
- To maintain a large area of natural landscape representative of the Okanagan Valley in a relatively undisturbed state; and,
- To maintain a significant portion of undeveloped lakeshore along Okanagan Lake.

Recreation Role:

- To provide natural settings for less intensive beach recreation, thus helping to achieve balance between this type of recreational opportunity and the intensive use, beach-oriented opportunities typical in other provincial parks of the Okanagan Valley;
- To provide opportunities for dispersed upland recreational opportunities dependent upon a natural environment, including hiking, nature appreciation, fishing, etc.;
- To provide opportunities for secluded lakeshore use; and,
- To contribute to a proposed regional recreation corridor and act as a significant focal point along that route.

Park Zoning

Zone designations within the provincial park system reflect the management intent to achieve various levels of protection for both the natural and cultural resources of the park and compatible recreational use. Three zones have been applied to Okanagan Mountain Park: Intensive Recreation, Natural Environment and Wilderness Recreation (see Figure #3). They are described briefly below.

Intensive Recreation Zone

- This zone is applied to two areas of the park: the current north and south road access nodes into the park
- At the north end, the parking area and trail head are also a significant beach day use area within the park, and picnic facilities and trails to the beach are maintained to permit ready access and use. The purpose of this area is to support the high demand for road-accessible beach areas along the lakeshore and to encourage this use as part of the provincial park experience
- The parking area at the south entrance to the park primarily serves as a trailhead and facilities are oriented to this purpose. Although vehicle camping is not encouraged, the parking area could be used by recreational vehicles if circumstances warrant. Day use activity is to be encouraged with short trail routes to viewpoints taking in views of the interior landscape of the park, the south end of Okanagan Lake and the city of Penticton. A picnic area presently complements these viewing opportunities and expansion of such facilities would be welcomed as use increases.

Natural Environment Zone

- This zone constitutes a border of relatively high levels of activity within the park, including areas outside the present circular trail network of the Wildhorse Canyon Trail to the repeater site road and down the Divide Lake Trail to the south parking lot.
- It covers areas that are not road accessible but may be accessed by boat or trail.
- Provision of facilities recognizes and reflects concentrated visitor use.
- Facilities are provided as a means of protecting environmental quality while servicing increased use levels.
- The service road to the repeater site, and the repeater site itself, are non-conforming uses and public traffic along the road is not permitted.

Wilderness Recreation Zone

- This zone constitutes the central core of the park, including areas inside the present circular trail network of the Wildhorse Canyon Trail to the repeater site road and down the Mountain Goat Trail.
- The area is accessible only by trail.
- Facility development will be minimal and limited to trails, trail signs, designated camping areas, privies, and corrals.
- Facilities are provided as a means of protecting environmental quality.
- The service road to the repeater site, and the repeater site itself, are non-conforming uses and public traffic along the road is not permitted.

Natural and Cultural Resource Management

Lands

Throughout the plan directions with respect to park lands, it is the intent to maintain the wilderness character of the park by adding key lands and limiting road access. Little modification to the boundaries of the park has occurred since the original property was acquired and gazetted in 1973. Exceptions are Rattlesnake Island and land leased to BC Parks by the 2nd Century Fund of B.C. and the Nature Trust of B.C.

The first effort to set long term direction for the management of the park began in 1980 with the production of a draft master plan. The comprehensive assessment undertaken in that planning exercise resulted in recommendations for taking action with respect to the park boundaries and the resulting implications for access and activity planning in the park. No progress has been made since that time probably due

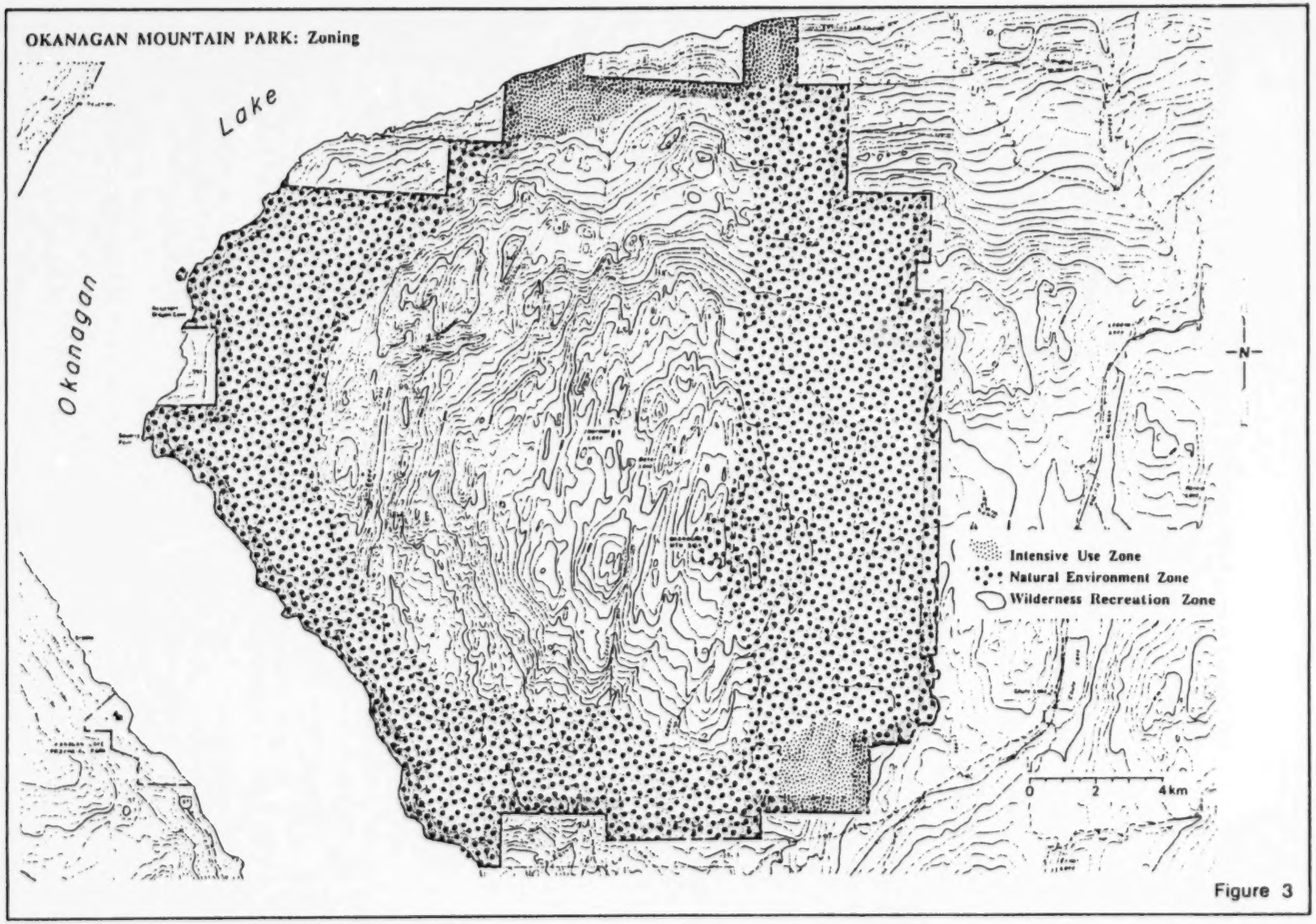
OKANAGAN MOUNTAIN PARK: Zoning
Lake
Okanagan
N
Intensive Use Zone
Natural Environment Zone
Wilderness Recreation Zone
0
2
4km

Figure 3

to the difficult fiscal period which followed and the perceived lack of pressure requiring immediate action. Today the situation is different. Key undeveloped shoreline properties are for sale and use pressure in the Okanagan Valley generally is building significantly. If the park is to succeed in establishing an effective and rational focus for visitor access and activity, particularly in the north end of the park, a concerted effort must be made now to assemble the necessary lands. Access and use issues in key areas of the park are dependent upon the success of land acquisition.

Boundaries and Private Properties

Objectives:

- To ensure the long term protection and management of the representative characteristics of the Okanagan Basin and Okanagan Highlands Regional Landscapes;
- To acquire private inholdings;
- To minimize the impacts of non-conforming park uses;
- To minimize the impact of private land holdings adjacent to the park; and,
- To manage the park according to the philosophy of the master plan, minimizing visual and maintenance impacts of park developments and operation.

Actions:

- Expand the park area through property acquisition and surrender none of the existing park land.
- Initiate immediate actions to purchase undeveloped properties that are surrounded by park land and/or the lakeshore, beginning with those currently being offered for sale (see Figure #4). Lands presently for sale occupy key locations relative to future park development and if not purchased, private development of those lands could dramatically impact the effective operation and management of the park. Significant public recreation opportunities will also be lost if these properties are not purchased immediately.
- Respond to private initiatives to sell developed inhold properties as they become available(see Figure #4). A similar situation applies to these private lands, although they tend to be of secondary importance from a location perspective and from the perspective of a concern over imminent private development. Their public recreation potential is very high.
- Acquire grazing leases as soon as mutual agreement to do so can be achieved or, allow existing title to the lease to expire. No lease renewal will be approved.
- Encourage non-conforming users to recognize the purposes and values of Class A Park land by limiting the expansion of non-conforming facilities and by applying a market-rate permit-pricing structure which increases the attractiveness of alternatives outside the park.
- Continue to work cooperatively with adjacent land owners to achieve the conservation and recreation objectives of the park.

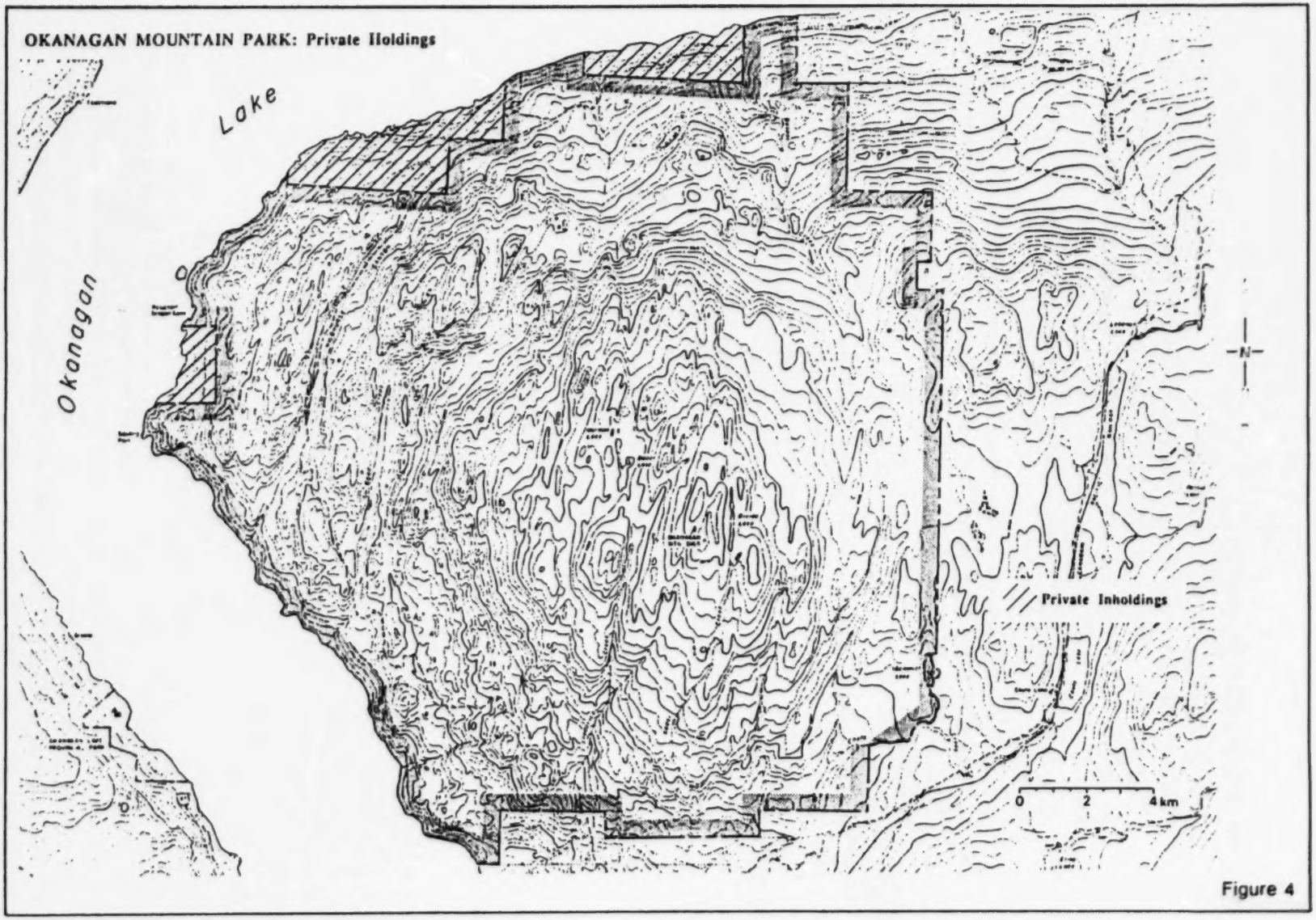
OKANAGAN MOUNTAIN PARK: Private Holdings
Lake
Okanagan
N
Private Inholdings
0
2
4 km

Figure 4

Access Roads and Parking

Objectives:

- To limit public road access to the park by maintaining the current road system with no further access development;
- To provide appropriately sized parking areas at recognized entry points into the park;
- To provide small additional trailhead parking areas at the north end of the park;
- To maintain a high-quality, all-weather access road to the beach parking area and trailhead at the north end of the park; and,
- To retain the current standard of access road to the south end parking area and trailhead.

Actions:

- Monitor traffic use on the north and south end access roads to determine use levels, appropriate service standards, and maintenance requirements.
- Maintain the existing parking lots at the present locations on the north and south access roads.
- Develop a small parking area for a minimal number of vehicles (approx. 3 - 5) at the existing gate on the road to the repeater site. The road is to be used as trail access to the mountain summit and upland lakes area.
- Upon purchase of private lands at the gated end of the north end road, develop a trailhead and parking area to serve the Wildhorse Canyon Trail. In the event that the private property is not purchased, an easement should be negotiated to ensure trail access from the road to the existing trail. In addition, roadside parking should be developed within the road right-of-way in cooperation with the Ministry of Highways.
- Work cooperatively with other agencies and private logging interests to curtail further growth of access to the park. A particular area of concern is the road network associated with recent logging activity and the hydro right-of-way adjacent to the park along the eastern boundary. Recreational facility development within the park should similarly be designed to discourage any informal access to the park in this area.

Water

Water is an important resource in the Okanagan Valley. The lakeshore is the primary area for recreation because beach activities dominate in the hot summer months when visitor use is at its peak. The availability of drinking water is a major concern for visitors who venture into the park's upland area for extended periods of time. Most of the lakeshore streams have extremely diminished water levels, many to the point of drying up during the summer season. Information for visitors regarding water sources and suitability for drinking is an important factor in encouraging and providing for expanded recreational activities in the backcountry of the park.

Objectives:

- To maintain naturally pure waters within the park for their aesthetic and ecological benefits to the environment and to contribute to the support of recreational activities for visitors.

Actions:

- Conduct water quality surveys in all major lakes and streams within the park to establish a baseline for regular monitoring of water quality.
- Record water levels in all the major lakes and streams during all seasons of the year to determine availability.
- Identify appropriate drinking water sources for visitors.
- Maintain cooperation with the Water Management Branch with respect to on-going studies and water use.

Vegetation

The park is an important representative area within the Okanagan Basin and Okanagan Highlands Regional Landscapes. Although the uppermost alpine elements of the natural landscape are not included in the park, three biogeoclimatic zones are represented from the dry bunchgrass zone of the lower elevations to the interior Douglas fir zone in higher elevations. There are indications that plant species of particular interest and significance exist in the wide variety of flora found in these zones. They include plants such as the greasewood which has been recorded in the park and is at the northernmost extent of its range.

Although horse-logging occurred in the park between the 1890s and the 1930s, many areas have remained unlogged. More recent logging is evident on the eastern slopes of the park. In the second growth Douglas fir, there is considerable blow down and pine stands have been extensively damaged by pine beetle infestations. These characteristics have increased the threat of fire and are a concern in the management of the park's forest as well as that of the surrounding lands.

It is the intent of the master plan to maintain the natural evolution of the park's forest cover to the fullest extent possible. It is recognized, however, that due to the relatively small area of the park and the needs of adjacent land owners, naturally occurring fire is not an ecosystem process that can be left unchecked. As a result, active fire control and selected management actions to compensate for the removal of fire as a natural process are considered appropriate in the management of the park.

Objectives:

- To protect the indigenous plant communities representative of the region for their benefits to the continuation of natural processes, the provision of natural wildlife habitats and the attractiveness of the area for recreational use; and,
- To selectively manage small site-specific forested areas to reduce fire hazard, improve wildlife habitat or improve recreational potential.

Actions:

- Develop a system of monitoring fuel loading and insect and disease infestations. Although such conditions are considered natural processes and

are therefore left to take their course, some site specific actions, such as spot tree removal or downing of standing dead timber, may be desirable along trails or in recreational activity areas.

- Maintain a fire suppression plan in cooperation with the Ministry of Forests that emphasizes quick initial attack throughout the park.
- Cooperate with the Ministry of Forests in the designation and/or installation of helicopter landing sites for fire fighting purposes to ensure that locations and the nature of development minimizes the environmental disruption to the park.
- Research the ecological requirements and implications of reintroducing certain wildlife species indicated as potentially desirable, such as beaver and mountain sheep.
- Ensure that facilities and visitor activity patterns are controlled to minimize disturbance of vegetative cover, especially in areas of high susceptibility to disturbance, possible erosion and fire.

Fish and Wildlife

The park contains habitat for a diversity of wildlife. This includes species found throughout the province, such as mule and white-tailed deer which are frequently seen in the park. Other species such as lynx, marten and coyote, are not commonly sighted but are known to be present.

Wildlife viewing is an important recreational opportunity and one of the issues for Okanagan Mountain Park is the extent to which wildlife populations should be managed through the improvement of habitat or through introduction. Elk were introduced a number of years ago and add to the interest of the area for visitors. Consideration is being given to adding to the numbers of bighorn sheep and to the reintroduction of beaver, which are reported to have died out through the changes in habitat. Similarly, fish stocking has been an ongoing practise in the park area.

Objectives:

- To maintain the natural diversity of species representative of the regional landscape;
- To expand selected opportunities for wildlife viewing in the park through habitat improvement and reintroduction of species; and,
- To protect critical habitats from inappropriate development and use.

Actions:

- Coordinate with fish and wildlife management strategies ongoing in the region.
- Identify critical habitats for species such as elk and rattlesnakes and manage visitor use to minimize impact. Areas such as the slopes between Wildhorse Canyon and the shoreline of Okanagan Lake may be important for elk winter range and rattlesnake denning. The highest density areas include Wildhorse Canyon. An increase in visitor numbers will make such action essential to the maintenance of a healthy population.

- Examine the feasibility of having bighorn sheep re-introduced into the park for non-consumptive enjoyment. A BC Parks position outlining the benefits and possible problems of such an initiative should be developed prior to opening discussions.
- Conduct a study of the fisheries in Norman, Baker and Divide Lakes to determine the optimum species mixture and population levels appropriate to the ecological capacities of the lakes.
- Update a fisheries management plan on an annual basis as part of the park management plan.
- Continue to stock upper lakes in the park with rainbow trout.

Cultural Resources

There is a rich history of the park area and the surrounding region, encompassing a variety of topics such as early native use, transportation history, logging and wartime training. Evidence of these early activities is still present in the park and could be the basis of interesting interpretive presentations, either in personal or printed form. Appreciation of this history will add significantly to the visitor experience.

Objectives:

- To document and comparatively assess the significance of the cultural resources of the park area and their relationship to the cultural heritage of the region; and,
- To ensure the protection of valuable cultural resources within the park.

Actions:

- Prepare a comprehensive cultural history of the area, covering but not limited to: native use, transportation history, logging, homesteading, wartime activities and recreational use.
- Identify specific sites and routes of particular significance and interest, such as pictograph sites, the wartime camp at Commando Bay now commemorated with a plaque, and the Wildhorse Canyon and Pandosy trails.
- Prepare a conservation strategy for the park's cultural resources that is sensitive to the importance of informing park visitors about the history of these resources and their fragility.

Visual Resources

Three aspects of the park's visual resources deserve particular attention. The first is the recreational opportunity that viewing provides for visitors to the park. Because the park borders on Okanagan Lake, its relief and the landform configuration offers many opportunities for views out into the Okanagan Valley. When compared to the more developed landscape beyond, the natural qualities of the landscape within the park give the visitor the sense of escape from a man-made environment to a natural, quiet setting. These are valuable experiences and should be encouraged.

The second aspect of the visual resources of the park is the protection of the quality of the environment. In an area sensitive to impacts from development or use, it is particularly important that every effort be made to minimize such impacts and create facilities that are both functional and aesthetically pleasing.

The third aspect of the visual resources of the park is the dominant role the park plays in the viewscape of the Okanagan Valley. It is a prominent landscape feature for many miles along the west shore of the lake as well as from approaches to the valley, such as the Coquihalla Highway. It is important, therefore, to retain the natural integrity of the park for the contribution it makes to the viewscape of people throughout the valley.

Objectives:

- To provide quality viewing opportunities;
- To protect the natural aesthetic qualities of the park, allowing visitors to fully appreciate the representative character of the natural landscape; and,
- To minimize the visual impact of the development of recreational facilities and the encouragement of recreational activity.

Actions:

- Identify and develop additional viewpoints along hiking trails, especially in association with day use activity areas.
- Carefully plan and monitor the development of recreational facilities in the park to ensure that characteristics such as siting, design, materials, construction techniques, etc. contribute to reducing the visual impact of facilities.
- Apply facility appearance guidelines, in accordance with the BC Parks standards, to the development of all facilities and signs, creating a unified and appropriate park image to the public.
- Cooperate with the Ministry of Highways to ensure that visitors' first impressions of the park area along the north and south access roads area are aesthetically pleasing and reflect the natural character of the park.
- Ensure that approved site-specific actions (such as spot tree removal and downing of standing dead timber) are small scale andcarried out sensitively to avoid inappropriate impacts on activity areas and important viewscapes.

Visitor Services Management

Information Strategy

One of the most surprising aspects of Okanagan Mountain Park is how unknown it is, both in terms of the character of the park and the recreational opportunities that it possesses. The park plays an extremely important role in the recreational diversity of the Okanagan Valley and yet this role has not been communicated either to the local population or to the vast number of visitors to the region.

Efforts must be made to increase public awareness of the opportunities within the park if it is to fulfill its role within the provincial system. The proposal for a regional recreation corridor, in which the park could play a major role, emphasizes this need.

Objectives:

- To create an awareness of the role of the park in achieving the goals of the provincial park system;
- To provide potential visitors with sufficient information to allow them to effectively plan their visit;
- To provide improved directional signs to assist the public to find and use park facilities and services;
- To provide visitors with information that will encourage their use and enjoyment of the park's facilities and services; and,
- To promote an understanding of and appreciation for the natural and cultural resources of the park and the surrounding region.

Actions:

- Develop and maintain an up-to-date informational brochure on the park, its purpose and the spectrum of recreational opportunities and facilities available.
- Develop a greater profile for the park in other Ministry materials describing the provincial parks of the Okanagan and the province as a whole.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive sign program for the park, including directional signs from the major highway access points through to internal trail direction and distance signs.
- Install major park entry signs on both the north and south access roads.
- Maintain up-dated facility information signs at trailheads.
- Develop a more extensive program of visitor contact and communication involving both personal services and self-explanatory material.
- Prepare a comprehensive cultural history booklet on the history of the park area and its relationship to the region.

Visitor Opportunities

Three important product lines encompass the primary activities within the park.

The first is a day use product which includes beach activities, boating and picnicking. These are the primary activities for the vast majority of the visitors to the park and are spread out along the shoreline. At the north end, road access provides day use opportunities associated with the beach and picnic area. Picnicking at the south end of the park is provided adjacent to the parking area at the terminus of the south access road. Boating activity and the associated use of beaches are also common at remote beach sites along the coast to the south end of the park.

The second product line encompasses backcountry activities such as camping, backpacking, fishing, hunting and boating. The focus of these activities is on the trail system in the park, although overnight boating and canoe camping also occur along the shores of Okanagan Lake.

The third product line encompasses activities concerned with resource appreciation — assisting the park visitor in understanding the natural and cultural features of the park. It includes interpretive activities and opportunities throughout the park enjoyed by both day use and overnight visitors and utilizes informative and interpretive material such as maps, brochures, interpretive signs and trails.

Product Line: Beach/Picnic/Water Play

Day use activities represent the major portion of visitor use within the park and will likely remain so in the near future. Beaches adjacent to the road and parking area at the north end of the park, and the more remote beaches accessible by boat, make use of the park on a day basis very easy. Beach activities play a significant role in the park. Visitors are attracted to the park by the combination of extensive, scenic shoreline available in the park and the hot, dry summer weather common to the Okanagan Valley. These opportunities should be encouraged and expanded, particularly those which take people beyond the road-accessible beaches typical of the park. While beach activity in general is an important activity, it is the remote beaches which help visitors gain a special appreciation for the character of Okanagan Mountain Park.

Beach Activities

Objectives:

- To expand the capacity of the park to support beach activities such as picnicking, swimming, etc.;
- To provide beach activity areas adjacent to road access and at more remote beaches accessible only by boat or long distance hike;
- To develop and maintain a high standard of support facilities and services at day use sites; and,
- To direct intensive day use activities to areas where environmental damage can be minimized.

Actions:

- Expand the recreational capacity/use of beaches in the park by selecting and developing facilities at appropriate locations to encourage and facilitate use both for day use and overnight use. Specific actions include:
  - maintaining existing development at certain beach locations (see Fig. #5);
  - maintaining certain beach sites in their natural state (see Fig. #5); and,
  - developing site plans for selected beach locations where facility development could improve the recreational potential and where facilities would lessen potential visitor impact (see Fig. #5).

  Note: High priority land acquisitions have been included in this assessment.

- Prepare site plans for selected beach sites, including facilities required and links to the upland portion of the park, if appropriate.
- Develop additional facilities at identified sites.

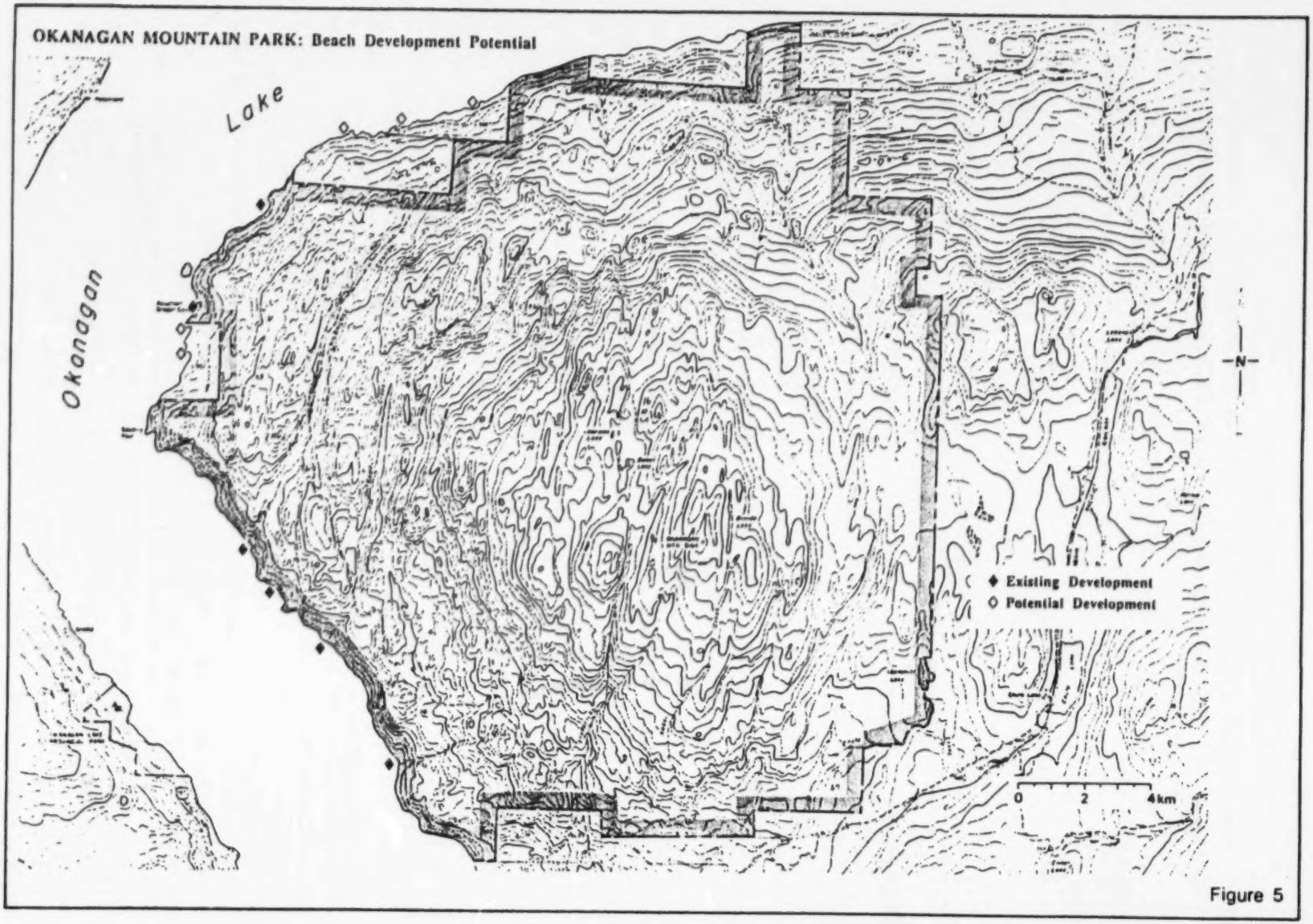
OKANAGAN MOUNTAIN PARK: Beach Development Potential
Lake
Okanagan
N
Existing Development
Potential Development
0
2
4km

Figure 5

- ❑ Remove existing development and clean up Rattlesnake Island.
- ❑ Prepare and implement a site plan for use of Rattlesnake Island as a day use activity area.

Boating

Objectives:

- ❑ To expand the capacity of the park to support boating activities;
- ❑ To develop and maintain a high standard of support facilities and services at boating day use sites; and,
- ❑ To direct intensive day use activities to areas where environmental damage can be minimized.

Actions:

- ❑ Incorporate considerations for boating activity in the study and planning of site developments related to beach activities described above, including:
  - the acquisition of additional shoreline properties;
  - the capacity and suitability of beach sites along the park shoreline;
  - the designation of shoreline as day use only or overnight sites;
  - the preparation of site plans;
  - the development of additional facilities, signs and information; and,
  - restoration of a natural environment on Rattlesnake Island.
- ❑ Continue to cooperate with private groups in the installation of quality support facilities for boat use of the park's remote beaches.
- ❑ Consider public-access proposals for privately operated boat service to selected remote beach sites along the park shoreline, dependent upon the the ability to maintain the integrity of the designated landing sites.

Product Line: Backcountry

While day use activity of the park's upland areas is more common, overnight backcountry use of the park is presently low and dominated by hike-in fishing activity at the upper lakes. Regular horse trips are taken in the backcountry. Backpacking along the main trails and to the upper lakes represents a small portion of park use. Camping is concentrated in a few key locations such as the upper lakes, at water sources along the main trails, and along the shore of Okanagan Lake. Limitations on water availability in some areas discourages overnight use that might otherwise be far more common. Encouraging more use in the shoulder seasons is an important consideration in realizing the potential of the park for backcountry use. In addition to this varied overnight use, considerable backcountry use takes place on a day use basis due to the size of the park area and the accessibility of certain areas of interest.

The level of use is not a reflection of the potential and attractiveness of the area for any of these backcountry uses. It is more a reflection of the lack of knowledge about the area by a wide spectrum of the public and the lack of basic trails and facilities to support increased use.

Mountain biking is an activity that is just beginning to be recognized as an integral part of the park experience and good potential exists to provide for such activity in Okanagan Mountain Park. With the concept to develop an associated regional recreation corridor, the park could become a very popular biking area. This development should be encouraged by BC Parks. It would facilitate the growth and fulfillment of the park's role of providing backcountry recreation in the Okanagan.

Hunting and trapping continue to occur in the park but, while numbers are not well documented, they are considered to be small. Trapping harvest has decreased significantly over the past three or four years, although the reasons for the reduction are unknown. Hunting, on the other hand, has not decreased. There is little concern at present about these activities and their impact on the resident populations. A greater concern is the regulation of hunting methods and the potential for damage to the park environment by the illegal use of four-wheel drives or all terrain vehicles. Active monitoring of the hunting activity and success rates are imperative if a justifiable policy on hunting is to be implemented.

Camping

Objectives:

- To expand and maintain a system of designated campsites throughout the park;
- To encourage the use of camping as a means of public appreciation of the natural and cultural values of the park; and,
- To ensure camping activities and facilities minimize the impact on the park environment.

Actions:

- Identify appropriate sites for designated campsites at Norman Lake and at the south end of Wildhorse Canyon, just off the existing trail.
- Develop basic facilities, such as fire circles, at all designated sites and install outhouses in areas where a number of sites are concentrated.
- Encourage a pack-in, pack-out policy for waste disposal.
- Establish and enforce fire regulations prohibiting fires in the driest portions of the visitor season.
- Develop more extensive campsite facilities in the natural environment zone, including picnic tables and tent clearings.

Hiking

Objectives:

- To expand and maintain a diversity of hiking trails throughout the park;
- To plan trails with a view to minimize conflict between users andthe impact on the environment; and,
- To plan for a future connection of the trail system to the potential regional recreation corridor along the old Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way.

Actions:

- Expand the existing trail network, with priority development on additions in the Deeper Creek area, the Lookout Mountain area, the Norman Lake area, the area between Goode Creek and Wildhorse Canyon, and the area of the south parking lot (see Figure #6).
- Assess and develop the proposed linkages to the existing trail system for areas of private property as they are acquired.
- Determine and designate a circular trail route through the park to connect with the potential regional recreation corridor. The Wildhorse Canyon Trail should be included in that trail. Although connections along the eastern side of the park are not as obvious, general routes have been identified (see Fig. #6).
- Identify a possible connection to the old railway right-of-way in the southeast corner of the park.
- Designate the selected trail connecting with the regional recreation corridor for mountain-bike use as well as hiking.

Mountain Biking

Objectives:

- To provide opportunities for mountain biking and to encourage their use;
- To plan, improve and designate certain trails for the use of mountain bikes within the park;
- To ensure the designated use of mountain bikes does not negatively impact on other users or the environment; and,
- To plan for a future connection of the trail system to the potential regional recreation corridor along the old Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way.

Actions:

- Designate the location of mountain biking trails and develop and manage such trails accordingly (see Fig #6).
- Ensure that trails open to mountain biking are sufficiently free of environmentally sensitive conditions so that the integrity of the areas they traverse can be maintained.
- Post information regarding which trails are to be used and encouraging the safe and considerate use of the bikes within the park.

Fishing and Hunting

Objectives:

- To provide opportunities for "wilderness experience" fishing and hunting only for select, unthreatened species within the park; and,
- To ensure that all fishing and hunting activity is undertaken on foot or by horseback, according to the manager's approval and appropriate regulations.

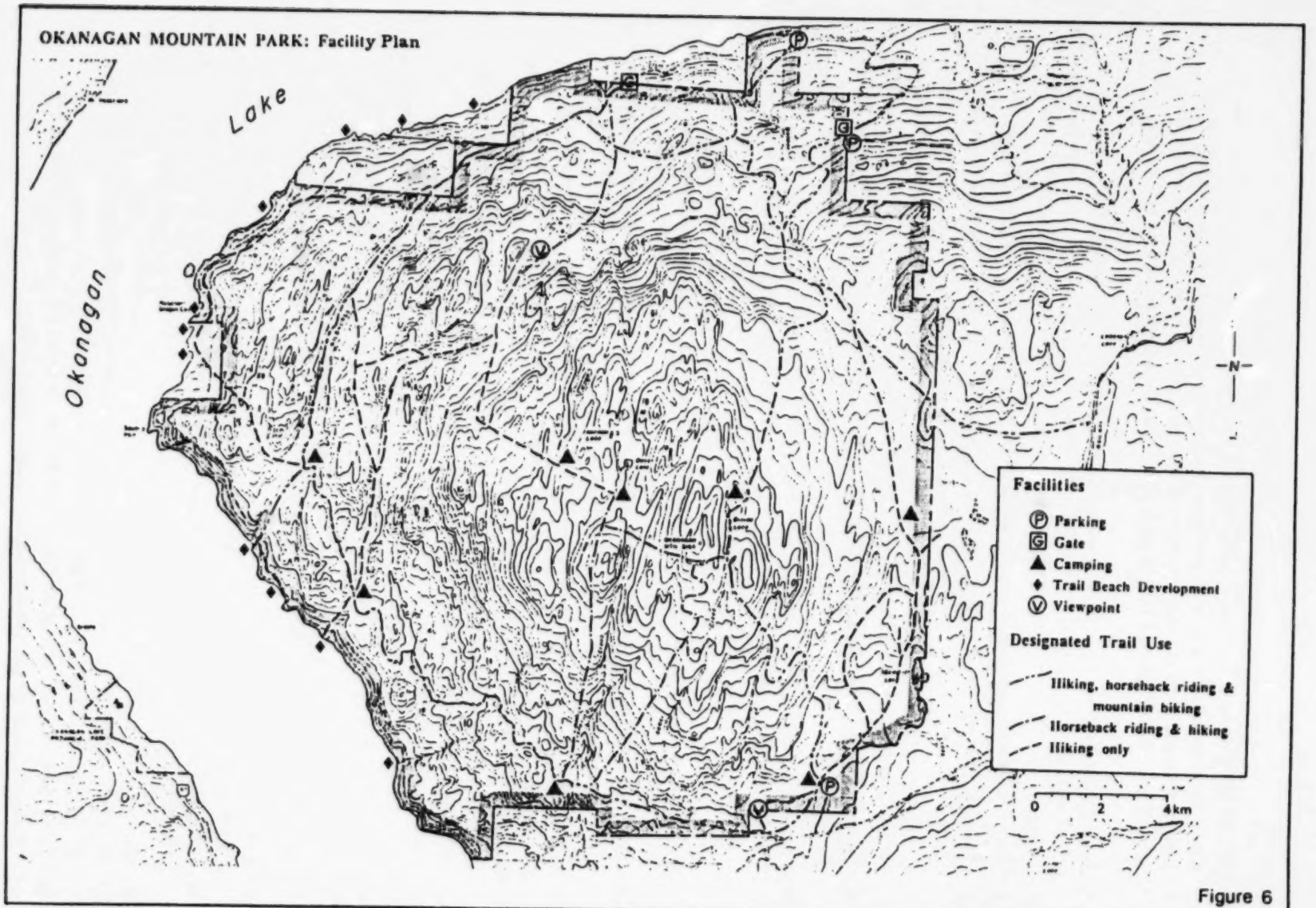
OKANAGAN MOUNTAIN PARK: Facility Plan
Lake
Okanagan
N
Facilities
Parking
Gate
Camping
Trail Beach Development
Viewpoint
Designated Trail Use
Hiking, horseback riding & mountain biking
Horseback riding & hiking
Hiking only
0
2
4km

Figure 6

Actions:

- Monitor both hunting and trapping use and success rates for a period of five years, then reassess the appropriateness of these activities on the basis of their perceived impact on wildlife populations and other recreational activities.

Horseback Riding

Objectives:

- To provide opportunities for horseback riding and to encourage such use;
- To plan, improve and designate certain trails for horseback riding within the park;
- To ensure the designated use of horses does not negatively impact on other users or the environment; and,
- To regulate horse use as necessary, according to factors such as party size, camp facilities, etc.

Actions:

- Designate the location of horseback riding trails and develop and manage such trail segments accordingly (see Fig. #6).
- Ensure that trails open to horses are sufficiently free of environmentally sensitive conditions, so that the integrity of the areas they traverse can be maintained.
- Post information regarding which trails are to be used and encouraging the safe and considerate use of horses within the park.
- Develop associated facilities, such as corrals, in key locations.

Winter Activities

Winter activities are a small segment of the present park use. Potential is limited for typical winter activities such as cross country skiing; other areas within the Okanagan are much better suited to the expansion of such facilities. While winter activities should not be discouraged, undertaking formal developments within the park to increase such use seems unnecessary, given the role and priorities for the park. Use of the potential regional recreational corridor may alter this situation in the future, but within the time frame of this plan, winter activities should be pursued in the natural settings that the park has to offer and not receive special facility development attention.

Objectives:

- To provide some limited opportunities for winter use of the park; and,
- To inform the public about the opportunities available and the limitations upon them.

Actions:

- Cooperate with the Ministry of Highways to ensure that the north access road and parking areas are plowed regularly or as required.
- Provide trailhead access so hiking trails can be used for cross country skiing (trails will not be groomed or maintained in any way).

- Provide necessary information by erecting signs at the trailheads for the winter season.

Product Line: Resource Appreciation

A wide variety of opportunities exist for visitors to appreciate the natural and cultural resources of the park. In particular, hiking and viewing opportunities combined with interpretive information and facilities will promote this activity. Day hikes with good viewing opportunities are available along the initial sections of the Wildhorse Canyon Trail in the north end of the park, and an excellent view of southern Okanagan Lake and Penticton is provided by a viewpoint accessible along a short trail leading from the parking lot at the south end of the park. Similarly, trails lead from the remote beaches into the adjacent upland areas.

Objectives:

- To encourage greater visitor appreciation of the park's natural and cultural heritage;
- To expand the opportunities for day use activity at the south and north access nodes of the park;
- To develop and maintain a high standard of support facilities and services at day use sites; and,
- To direct intensive day use activities to areas where environmental damage can be minimized.

Actions:

- Identify areas with potential for developing short interpretive trails and viewpoints from the day use activity areas. These include loop trails along the route to Wildhorse Canyon, from the south parking lot to the Gemmill Lake and Lookout Mountain areas, and from beach access points such as Buchan Bay and Goode Creek.
- Develop an attractive and informative park brochure including a map of the park and interpretive material explaining the park's natural and cultural resources.
- Develop designated trails that are sensitive to the environmental constraints of the area.
- Develop facilities, signs and information to support these opportunities.

Management Services

The park requires considerable staff time and interest to realize its full potential, particularly during the time of upgrading facilities and services to meet present use levels and preparing for the additional use that is inevitable. Without such preparation, the park's resources will suffer and the task of maintaining park integrity and providing quality public service will be that much more difficult and costly.

Objectives:

- To ensure the exceptional wilderness quality which exists within the park is maintained for the future;
- To maintain management and operational control over all development and services offered within the park;
- To encourage the participation of interest groups and the private sector in appropriate roles in the planning, development and operation of facilities and services while maintaining management control;
- Within the context and management intentions of the Master Plan, to limit non-conforming use of park lands; and,
- To address visitor needs, provide visitor interpretation, and monitor visitor use and park resources by providing an appropriate level of staff presence in the park.

Actions:

- Prepare Annual Management Plans that address implementation of the improvements, developments and management actions presented in this plan.
- Maintain close working relationships with the local yacht clubs with respect to facilities, use and safety at remote moorage sites.
- Support public initiatives towards the formation and functioning of a cooperating association for the park.
- Be receptive to proposals for a pilot project, in cooperation with private interests, to provide public boat service to selected remote beach sites along the park shoreline.
- Encourage guided-tour use of the park by boat, horse, hiking or bicycling.
- Maintain the existing permit control system over all commercial recreational uses within the park.
- Minimize all impacts of the repeater site:
  - limit expansion of communications equipment on Okanagan Mountain to that which can be accommodated on existing towers or within existing buildings.
  - permit new towers or buildings only where:
    a) the Minister is satisfied that there are no practical or economically feasible alternatives available outside the park;
    b) the Minister is satisfied that proposed expansion is necessary to accommodate an overriding public interest such as public safety or community welfare; and,

c) compensation is provided to directly preserve or maintain the recreational values of the park.

- encourage site users to combine facilities and maintenance wherever possible to reduce the total scale of non-conforming use;
- by applying a fee structure based on market values, encourage communications site permittees and applicants to pursue alternatives outside the park; and,
- continue strict control of service-vehicle access to the communications site and require users to develop alternative means of access in the event that road closures are imposed for environmental protection.

- Maintain sufficient resource allocations in the annual management plan to facilitate staff presence, including the possibility of staff cabins in the park.

Marketing

This task is a most important one in the expanded use of Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park. The park has an important role to play in the recreational spectrum of the Okanagan Valley. Its potential to realize that role is severely hampered by a lack of public knowledge of the activities and opportunities it provides. Marketing of these opportunities must accompany the growth of facility and service developments. Such efforts to achieve the optimum use of the park must always be tempered by the necessity to protect the park's landscape and resources.

Objectives:

- To promote the use of the park as a backcountry, day use area for specific summer recreational activities not presently well provided for within the provincial park system in the Okanagan Valley, eg. hiking, remote beach activity, mountain biking, etc.;
- To promote increased use of the more limited overnight, backcountry recreational opportunities; and,
- To encourage the cooperative development of the regional recreational corridor concept along the eastern side of Okanagan Lake, connecting the major urban centres along the Okanagan Valley and linking such a corridor to the recreational opportunities within the park.

Actions:

- Develop a detailed marketing strategy for the promotion of the park and its recreational opportunities.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive sign program for the park, including directional signs from the major highway access points.
- Provide local tourist information centres and recreation facilities and organizations with current information on park opportunities.
- Stimulate interest and activity towards the planning and development of a regional recreational corridor.

- Cooperate with a wide variety of government agencies, public interest groups and private sector interests in the planning and development of the corridor.
- Encourage the promotion of the park as a central element of the corridor.

Plan Implementation

The effectiveness of implementing the plan components discussed above will largely depend upon the priority assigned to the park when allocating Regional and District budgets and staff time. Although current use levels are not high, there is an urgent need to address many of the issues in the park to avoid greater complexity, degradation of resources and higher costs in the future.

Specific actions and priorities which direct the allocation of staff time and financial resources are found in the Annual Management Plan. Such statements should be developed to reflect the priorities and actions discussed in more general terms in this plan. A summary of the recommendations of the plan and their relative priority appears below.

Priority 1

- land acquisition
- parking areas
- viewpoint development
- facility appearance guidelines
- sign program
- beach developments
- site plans for development
- priority trail development
- regional recreation corridor initiative
- preliminary conservation strategy for cultural resources
- fire suppression plan

Priority 2

- water surveys
- identify critical wildlife habitat
- cultural history study and booklet
- park brochure
- visitor service program
- restoration of Rattlesnake Island
- planning for connection of regional recreation corridor to the park
- marketing strategy

Priority 3

- ❑ major park entry signs
- ❑ trailhead sign information
- ❑ wildlife reintroduction studies and action
- ❑ fisheries study

Public Input Summary

Role of the Park:

- park has a major aesthetic value in the Okanagan Valley
- should provide something approaching wilderness experience on a day use basis
- promote as a wilderness or nature park
- multi-use park
- major thrust of the park should be its marine component
- should preserve a large tract of relatively undisturbed wildlife habitat/ vegetation
- provide environmental education and recreational opportunities

Resource Protection:

- protect Indian pictographs
- unique vegetation and birds should be acknowledged and protected
- beavers should be reintroduced into the area

Land Use and Development:

- disagree with closing of existing roads ie. Paradise Ranch Road, especially from Sept. 15
- more hunting access
- open access road to base of Baker Lake trail
- keep Wild Horse Canyon as is
- no major development
- no vehicle access camping
- expand backcountry camping facilities
- keep park free of vehicles
- purchase private inholdings
- fencing and signage would aid in identifying private properties
- develop designated backcountry campsites
- acquire more lakeshore
- controlled vehicle access on existing roads - gate, key, permit system

- access at present is adequate - increasing access will only increase problems
- restoration of Ogopogo Island - removal of existing development
- no hunting, mining or logging in park
- leave the beachfront untouched
- develop more road access to park from north end possibly using the existing road through Wildhorse Canyon
- develop park administration facilities on Rattlesnake Island
- develop major marine park facilities on suitable sites e.g. anchor buoys, picnic sites, toilets, campsites etc.
- park should support hiking, swimming, mountain biking, trail riding and backpacking
- link the park with a recreation corridor (Naramata to Myra with connections to the Kelowna area and beyond)
- develop a marine park with small dock, shoreline facilities and hiking trails
- spend more time and effort in developing the marine element of the park
- enlarge parking lot to facilitate more parking and accommodate horse trailers
- develop a few small corrals in key locations eg. park entrances and various campgrounds
- construct and maintain simple cabins for visitor use in all seasons
- develop the park as an all year, full service, tourist facility
- paved access and internal roads
- full service campground and organized activity centre
- day camp facility/resource centre
- activity areas with facilities - beaches, viewpoints, boat launch, climbing, hiking and bridle paths, ice skating/sports area, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling
- store, boat and horse rentals
- fire fighting demonstration area
- swinging bridge over gorge
- logging and reforestation demonstration
- park should be closed to vehicles
- park should be closed to trail bikes
- improve and expand facilities at beach accesses
- good existing development but need more of it
- Wild Horse Canyon should be made more accessible on a day hike. Develop all vehicle road as far as the locked gate with parking area there.
- any vehicle camping should be restricted to outside rim of park
- upgrade existing road for a short distance (4-5 km) into park to provide better access
- no organized campsites, just primitive campsites

- establish an R.V. park within the park and allow expansion as required
- picnic tables and toilets at each lookout and at Norman Lake, Gimmill Lake and Wilson Lake
- two campsites on the perimeter trails, approximately midway between parking lots, to include well water, fire pits and toilets.

❑ a campsite at Baker Lake

Trails:

- ❑ bypass trails for horses on steep slopes
- ❑ recognize historic trails
- ❑ restrict mountain bikes to certain trails
- ❑ more trails to points of interest, viewpoints etc. especially along the lake at lower elevations
- ❑ additional trails in the Wild Horse Canyon area ie Buchan Bay, Commando Bay, lakes above the canyon, etc.
- ❑ trails need to be well planned and surfaced to be durable and to reduce impact
- ❑ more trails from north access
- ❑ horses should not be allowed on steeper trails
- ❑ develop a shoreline trail
- ❑ make trails available to horses.
- ❑ volunteer trail crews - maintenance
- ❑ more round-trip trails of varying distances and grades
- ❑ more beach access from trails within park
- ❑ single use trails will always lead to further problems
- ❑ a hiking trail to Naramata should be developed
- ❑ trail into the crash site of the DC3
- ❑ a perimeter trail from the Kelowna parking lot, up Deeper Creek, and tying in with the top of the Pandosy Trail
- ❑ a trail from the Kelowna parking lot to Baker Lake
- ❑ increase number of trails from the Divide Lake area towards the southern parking lot
- ❑ a trail should be constructed in the Goode's Creek Basin
- ❑ a trail should link the turn around at the end of the regional road to the trail up the mountain

Leases:

- ❑ remove cattle grazing rights
- ❑ phase out leases and permits
- ❑ no new leases or permits
- ❑ maintain transmitter site - strategic height needed to efficiently serve the region

- ❑ eliminate repeater sites
- ❑ no additional equipment should be allowed at the repeater site

Forest Management:

- forest management by Parks, not Forestry
- removal of diseased trees to reduce fire hazard
- reduce fire hazard with prudent forest management
- leave pine beetle infestation to run its course
- forest management should be minimal (fires only)
- leave old growth forest: a rarity and natural attraction; also good deer habitat
- address pine beetle infestation
- selective logging for beetle control
- controlled burning of vulnerable forest areas
- controlled burning is an outdated practise and should not be pursued
- spread of knapweed should be checked, starting immediately
- concern over beach campfires and the potential fire hazard

Information and Interpretation:

- boundaries should be signed
- interpretive material at trail head
- park regulations should be posted at boundary
- no public promotion until adequate facilities and protection mechanisms are in place
- present level of promotion is adequate
- increase promotion of the park on a local and provincial scale
- improve signage within park - trail routes and distances to next point of interest
- more information on history, trail descriptions and points of interest
- pamphlets with park information and map available at the City/Chamber of Commerce offices
- garbage disposal particularly along the waterfront should be addressed in the brochure
- the interpretive brochure should stress the semi-wilderness nature of the park
- Rattlesnake Island called Ogopogo Island by native people
- air lift and return to the crash site of the tail section of the DC3. A trail into the site and interpretive explanation like that at Commando Bay
- areas of interest that need to be addressed by an interpretive brochure include: pioneers living in the park area, rock paintings, Commando Bay, the old orchard, snakes, birds and other wildlife of the park

- a wildlife viewing guide should be produced for the park
- more visitor hunting information is required
- a study of wildlife abundance and distribution should be undertaken along with biophysical mapping of the park area
- promotion of the park via the Knowledge Network